

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing investment funds, the method comprising:

determining a predefined term for investing a predetermined amount of institutional capital in equity-based investments;

determining a plurality of dividend targets, the plurality of dividend targets associated with a plurality of respective periods during the predefined term;

determining a value indicator to be used during the predefined term; and

selecting an investment manager for investing the institutional capital in the equity-based investments for the predefined term and for at least meeting the plurality of dividend targets, the investment manager using at least the value indicator to determine whether to buy, to hold or to sell at least one of the equity-based investments during the predefined term; and

monitoring performance of the selected investment manager by determining whether the investment manager meets the plurality of dividend targets by comparing dividends paid on the equity-based investments during each of the plurality of periods to the plurality of respective dividend targets, wherein monitoring the performance of the selected investment manager includes electronically generating performance reports using software on a performance management system.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein monitoring the performance of the investment manager further includes evaluating at least one of the performance reports generated by the investment manager.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein determining a plurality of dividend targets includes determining a first dividend target for a first period based at least on a required dividend growth, and determining subsequent dividend targets for subsequent respective periods based on the required dividend growth and a required dividend yield.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the subsequent dividend targets are increased each subsequent period by a percentage equal to the required dividend growth multiplied by the required dividend yield.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the required dividend growth and the required dividend yield remain unchanged throughout the predefined term.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the value indicator is dividends.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the value indicator is earnings.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the value indicator is cash flow.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the value indicator is book value.

11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first period and the subsequent respective periods are yearly periods.

12. (Currently amended) A method for managing investment funds, the method comprising:

determining a predefined term for investing a predetermined amount of institutional capital in equity-based investments;

determining an initial dividend yield;

determining a growth rate;

determining a value indicator to be used during the predefined term; and

selecting an investment manager for investing the institutional capital in the equity-based investments for the predefined term in accordance with the initial dividend yield and the growth rate, the investment manager using at least the value indicator to determine whether to buy, to hold or to sell at least one of the equity-based investments during the predefined term; and

monitoring performance of the selected investment manager by determining whether the investment manager meets a plurality of dividend targets associated with the initial dividend yield and the growth rate by comparing dividends paid on the equity-based investments during each of a plurality of periods to the plurality of respective dividend targets, wherein monitoring the performance of the selected investment manager includes electronically generating performance reports using software on a performance management system.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~13~~12, wherein monitoring the performance of the investment manager further includes evaluating at least one of the performance reports generated by the investment manager.

15. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the value indicator is dividends.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the value indicator is earnings.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the value indicator is cash flow.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the value indicator is book value.

19.-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) A method for managing investment funds, the method comprising:

determining a predefined term for investing a predetermined amount of institutional capital in at least one bond investment;

defining a value indicator to be used during the predefined term;

selecting an investment manager for investing the predetermined amount of institutional capital in the at least one bond investment for the predefined term, the investment manager using the value indicator to determine whether to buy, to hold, or to sell the at least one bond investment during the predefined term; and

monitoring performance of the investment manager according to whether the selected investment manager meets one or more performance targets not based on market value, wherein monitoring the performance of the investment manager includes

electronically generating performance reports using software on a performance management system.

38. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 37, wherein the value indicator is fair value of the at least one bond investment.

39. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 38, wherein monitoring the performance of the investment manager further includes comparing an amount of capital at the end of a respective period during the predefined term with ~~the~~ an aggregate of accumulated interest and the fair value of the at least one bond investment at the end of the respective period.

40.-90. (Canceled)